



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE ARRESTS JACKSONVILLE PREDATOR

Latest Florida Arrest Under Operation Predator

JACKSONVILLE- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents arrested a 61-year-old predator who is charged with engaging in sexual acts with a child from late 2000 to late 2003.

The arrest was announced today by Raymond M. Connolly, ICE's Special Agent-in-Charge in Tampa and Paul Perez, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida.

ICE agents arrested John J. Tulip late last night at a motel in Brunswick, Georgia. Tulip's arrests stems from a six-month ICE lead investigation.

Tulip, who had his first appearance today in a Jacksonville federal court, is charged with transporting a minor child in interstate and foreign commerce on numerous occasions from late 2000 to late 2003 for the purpose of engaging in sexual acts with the child.

The indictment also alleges that Tulip induced a minor to engage in sexual acts and acted as a legal guardian permitting a minor to engage in sexual acts for the purpose of producing visual depictions of the acts. The visual depictions were also allegedly transported in interstate or foreign commerce. Tulip has also been charged with transporting or causing the transporting of child pornography by computer in foreign commerce.

If convicted of all counts, Tulip faces a statutory minimum term of imprisonment of 15 years and a maximum statutory imprisonment of 185 years, in addition to a \$3 million fine, or both fines and imprisonment, and up to 36 years supervised release, and \$1,200 special assessment.

Tulip is in U.S. Marshals custody awaiting the outcome of his case. Tulip is presumed innocent until, and unless, proven guilty.

Tulip will be appearing before Magistrate Judge Monte C. Richardson on May 16th at 3:00 p.m. for his detention hearing.

This arrest is part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 5,500 individuals arrested nationwide.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

The St. John's County Sheriff's Office and the Dusseldorf State Police in Dusseldorf, Germany assisted with the investigation of this case.

ICE

ICE, the primary investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, was established to bring a unified focus to the enforcement of U.S. immigration and customs laws, with the principal goal of preventing violations by terrorists and other criminals who threaten the nation's security.